Among the reindeer-breeding Alyutortsy there were associations of families with small reindeer herds, bound by blood or affinal kinship. The typical correlation of reindeer in a herd owned in common by five households was: 5% + 10% + 20% + 25% + 30% = 90%. The other 10% of the herd usually belonged to sedentary relatives of the reindeer-breeders. Property inequality among the Alyutortsy was less pronounced than it was among the Chavchuvens. There were only a few cases where one of the co-owners in the association owned as much as 60% of the combined herd.

Thus, the backward forms of the Koryaks' subsistence economy fostered the preservation of communal relations among them.

The existence of clan relations among the Koryaks in the past is indicated by a number of aspects of their social life, and particularly by their family and marital ceremonials, which persisted into the first quarter of the 20th century. Among the survivals of clan organization we must note the custom of mutual assistance among related families, the custom forbidding outsiders to use the fire of an unrelated family, the residence (according to 18th-19th-century sources) of several related families in the same dwelling, the custom of vendetta, which survived until the early years of the 20th century, etc. In addition, the coastal Koryaks still retained traces of the institution of elders. In some of the villages there were persons called nym'elgen-an—"the guardian of the place," "the guardian of the past." This position could be held only by a man who was considered a descendant of the founder of the village. Each group of Koryaks headed by a nym'elgen-an had its own wooden image. In addition to the general designation of nym'elgen, the image also had its own name. Some of these names ("swallow," "duck") were of totemic character. Sacrifices were made to the images; they were "fed" and "dressed" in grass clothing.

Family relations at the end of the 19th century were based on patriarchal norms (patrilineal kinship, inheritance from father to son, patrilocal marriage). Along with this, there were survivals of matriarchy, the most distinct of which was the granting of children to the mother in case of divorce.

Among the remnants of extinct forms of group marriage were the surviving custom of the sororate, according to which a widower must marry the younger sister, younger cousin or niece of his dead wife, and the custom of the levirate, according to which a younger brother had to marry the widow of his older brother; in the absence of a brother, this duty devolved on the nephew or cousin of the dead husband. However, such survivals of group marriage as the Chukchi "association by wife" were already unknown among the Koryaks in the 18th century.

The most common method of contracting a marriage was by working for the wife. Under this custom, the groom had to work from 2-3 months to three years in the family of his future father-in-law, taking part in tending reindeer and other tasks. After the expiration of the work period, the groom performed the so-called ceremony of "catching the bride": the bride ran about in the house, and the groom had to catch her, tear her clothing, and touch her bare body. The bride's relative's present at the ceremony tried to hinder this in every way, beat the groom with twigs, pushed him away, and so on.

According to Koryak religion, the whole world was inhabited by a multitude of harmful beings—nin'vit's. The nin'vit's were invisible, but could become visible if they chose. They appeared to people in the form of anthropomorphic creatures, with huge ears, burning eyes (sometimes with one eye, sometimes with three), with long sharp teeth and a body covered with thick black fur. It was thought that the nin'vit's hunted and ate people by entering them and causing illness. To placate the nin'vit's, the Koryaks

Koryak RY4
Kamchadal RY3
Chukchee RY2

C /242 cont./

582 171 835 The Chukchee marriage norms probably were the same as among the other nationalities of the same linguistic group as the Chukchee, namely, the Kamchadal and the Koryak. Concerning the Kamchadal, we have the testimony K 582 835 of Krasheninnikov in Opisanie zemli Kamchatki /A Description of Kamchatka/ (II, 169) that marriages were concluded, unhindered, between male and female cousins. As to the KK 582 835 Koryak, their norms were evidently /243/ under the strong influence of the Tungus peoples. Thus, while marriage to a niece was regarded as incestuous among the Chukchee, it C [835] was permitted among the Koryak. As among the Tungus, marriage simultaneously to two sisters is not allowed among them. But the basic feature of Turanian marriage -- the obKK 587 ligation of marriage within one and the same clan -- has been perpetuated in the Koryak marriage in the institution of the sororate, or, as it is called by Iokhel'son, the double levirate. KK [171] As is well-known, the peculiarity of this institution, widespread even on the continent of North America (Algonkin, ● [614] Thompson, Skidi, Pawnee), is expressed in the obligation of [177] the widower to marry a woman from the clan of his deceased wife -- namely, a younger sister, cousin, or niece of the deceased (the last category -- nieces -- has evidently been adopted from the Tungus). Iokhel'son explains the origin of this institution by the desire to maintain religious ties that have been established between the spouses and by an unwillingness to admit an alien element to the sacred family hearth. Such an explanation could be very easily admitted, but then it is not understandable how the first, dead wife was admitted to the sacred hearth, especially since the Koryak have no knowledge of any kind of religious rituals like the KK 589 above-mentioned Chukchee ritual of administering the 835 sacrament to the wife. On the other hand, this is explained much more simply by the institution of obligatory marriage. With the obligatory cousin-marriage, sisters and female cousins of one family belonged to the brothers and male cousins of another, and naturally, when the wife of a man